

## James Gadsden to Andrew Jackson, May 3, 1819, from Correspondence of Andrew Jackson. Edited by John Spencer Bassett.

Mobile Point, May 3, 1819.

*Dear General,* I have this moment received your letter of the 8th ulto. The reception you met with from your fellow citizens on your return home was in unison with their feelings. The gratitude of the American People is not to be questioned. They generally think, and feel correctly—their actions are the result of these unless misguided by designing demagogues. They have been with you, and will always honor and reverence the man whose life has been devoted to the interests and glory of their country. The attack made upon you in Congress was solely to forward private views, to strike at the Executive over your head; you might fall in the contest but they did not regard that so as their own ambition, was gratified. Had you split with the Executive your conduct would have been viewed in a different light by these consistent characters. But you were too honest to subserve their designs, therefore it was necessary to them that you should be crushed. They have been foiled, and the attempt in the Senate will doubtless meet with the same fate. 1 Your Enemies however will be diligent during the recess of Congress; your Friends must be alike active to counteract their intrigues. Recollect there are two Senators to be chosen this fall from the new state of Alabama. This Country ought to be with you, and the People no doubt are, but honesty may be imposed upon by artifice, and Crawfords friends will doubtless attempt at Huntsville to secure the election of those who think and feel with them. 2 Intimate this suspicion to Jackson, Coffee etc. Your friends must not be lukewarm on the occasion. Could not Coffee go, he could doubtless be elected. I wish I had but political influence enough. I do not aspire to political life, but it would gratify me to be in the Senate but for one session. On a subject in which resort has been had

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to misrepresentations and gross falsehoods to support the charges, I think I could be eloquent. The facts would discomfort these vile calumniators.

1 See Bassett's *Jackson* , pp. 283–293.

2 The first senators from Alabama were John W. Walker and William R. King. Huntsville was the capital.

I have heard that Crawford was the author of the report in the Senate. 3 It is in character. Too cowardly to meet an enemy in open combat, like a snake in the grass, he can throw his poison only from his concealment.

3 Lacock's report.

I will write to my friend on the subject of the confidential communication, and endeavour to obtain the document. 4

4 See Jackson to Gadsden, Aug. 1, 1819, Vol. II., pp. 421–424.